



October 2012



Jodi Ross,
Town
Manager

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978-692-5500

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Notices and Information
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Presidential Election
Tuesday, November 6
Polls open 7AM - 8 PM

Important Information
on CO-Detectors
"Beat the Beep"
See Page 3.

Household Hazardous
Waste Collection
Saturday November 3
See Page 4.

Flu Vaccines
Available
See Page 5.

Holiday Gift
Basket Program
seeking donations
See Page 8.

Watch Meetings Online

westford
CAT

www.westfordcat.org

Dear Westford Residents,

Thank you to our 373 Westford residents who attended Special Town Meeting on October 15th. The results of town meeting action are available at this link: [Special Town Meeting Results](#), and if you were unable to attend and would like to hear the discussion, it is available through streaming video on our website: [Special Town Meeting Streaming Video](#).

A few of the significant actions of the meeting include:

- Added two School Resource Officers (police officers) one at Westford Academy and one at Nashoba Valley Technical High School.
- Allowed the Board of Selectmen to enter into a solar net metering credit sales agreement up to 30 years (which will allow us to reduce our electricity bills by up to 25%.)
- Approved acquiring a conservation restriction on 23 acres of land on the O'Brien Farm, located at 18 Vose Road.
- Authorized the Board of Selectmen to settle certain claims made by them on behalf of the town up to \$100,000.
- Transferred two Tax Possession Sale Committee parcels, the Sawmill Road Parcel and the Vose Parcel on Acton Road to the Conservation Commission and authorized the town to enter a 99 year lease with MassDOT to extend the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail into Carlisle and Acton.

There were several new town bylaws approved (pending Attorney General acceptance) including the following:

- Residents will be prohibited from discharging water into public ways if it causes a dangerous or defective condition.
- The town is authorized to make temporary repairs to private ways, with the entire costs assessed as a betterment to the abutters, if there is a public necessity to do so.
- The Tax Possession Sale Committee membership was increased from 3 to 7 members.
- The citizen petition to allow restaurants to have drive-up windows failed, however there was a resolution for the Planning Board to bring an article back to Annual Town Meeting that may allow drive-up windows with a special permit.
- The citizen's petition requesting an additional all-alcohol package store license at Cornerstone Square failed.

The new Cornerstone Square retail/restaurant/office park is set to open late this month. This new development will feature many retail stores and also includes several restaurants, including Panera Bread, Five Guys, Burton's Grill, and a new Italian restaurant, Evviva Cucina, although the Italian restaurant will not be opening until March.

(Continued on next page)

Trick-or-treating is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Halloween evening, October 31st, 2012.

Veteran's Day is swiftly approaching on November 11th, and the town has planned events beginning at 11:00 a.m. on our Town Common. Please join us if you are able while we honor those who have served and are serving our country. More information is available at this link: [Veteran's Day](#).

A special thank you to all town residents, officials, staff and others who organized and participated in a fundraiser on October 20th, which was held to assist one of our very special town employees who is battling cancer. It was heartwarming to see so many contribute to and partake in this event. This was just another example of what Westford residents are known for – thoughtfulness, caring, concern – and rallying together to provide support for someone in need.

I hope you are enjoying the spectacular autumn leaves and these unseasonably warm fall days.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross



*The Hicks Farm
Main Street , Westford
Photo by David Fingerhut*

Fire Department News

Beat the Beep - Don't Go Without Protection from the Invisible Killer

It is important that people **Beat the Beep** and replace their aging CO detectors to ensure uninterrupted protection from an invisible killer. CO alarms won't detect carbon monoxide when they are in the end of life mode.



Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms have been required in nearly every residence since March of 2006. The life expectancy of carbon monoxide alarms is 5-7 years, and many CO alarms installed as a result of this recent law are now reaching the end of their useful life and need to be replaced. No home appliance lasts forever.

The Department of Fire Services is rolling out a new campaign this fall to educate both the public and first responders about the expected surge in CO alarms reaching the end of their lives.

Signs the CO Alarm Needs Replacing

One of the signs that a carbon monoxide alarm has reached the "end of life" stage will be a "chirping" that does not stop until the unit is powered off and for models with a digital read out, it will have an "ERR" or "EO9" or "END" message. Another sign could be if it makes the low battery signal even after brand new batteries are installed. That's the main reason behind the "Beat the Beep" campaign.

Many Lives Saved by "Nicole's Law"

Since Nicole's Law took effect in 2006, we know of many people who have been saved from CO poisoning. The CO alarms notified them that something was wrong at the earliest possible stages with low levels of CO detected. There have still been deaths from CO poisoning, but in most cases those homes had no CO alarm installed yet.



Change your Clock Change your Batteries

In November we return to Standard Time which means we need to move our clocks back one hour. This is a good reminder that when we change our clocks we should also change the batteries in our Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms.

www.westfordma.gov/fire

Recycling Commission News

WESTFORD HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

This Bi-Annual Event is Saturday, NOVEMBER 3, from 9 AM - 1 PM at the Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street.

There is a \$20.00 fee per car; consolidate with your neighbors. Proof of Residency Required.

What Do I Bring?

From the Workbench:

- Oil Based Paints
- Stains & Varnishes
- Wood Preservatives
- Paint Strippers/Thinners
- Solvent Adhesives
- Lighter Fluid

From the Garage:

- Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene
- Antifreeze
- Engine Degreaser
- Brake Fluid/Carburetor Cleaner
- Transmission Fluid
- Car Wax, Polishes
- Driveway Sealer
- Roofing Tar
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Motor Oil

From the Yard:

- Poisons, Insecticides, Fungicides
- Chemical Fertilizers
- Weed Killers
- Moth Balls
- Flea Control Products

From the House:

- Rubber Cement, Airplane Glue
- Fiberglass Resins
- Photo Chemicals
- Chemistry Sets
- Furniture Polish
- Floor & Metal Polish
- Oven Cleaner
- Drain & Toilet Cleaner
- Spot Remover
- Rug & Upholstery Cleaner
- Hobby Supplies, Artist Supplies

How Can I Safely Transport These Hazardous Materials?

- Leave materials in original containers.
- Tighten caps and lids.
- Sort and pack separately: oil paint, pesticides, and household cleaners.
- Pack containers in sturdy upright boxes and pad with newspaper.
- **NEVER MIX CHEMICALS.**
- Pack your car and drive directly to the site.
- **NEVER SMOKE** while handling hazardous material.

What Not To Bring!

- Empty Containers/Trash
- Commercial or Industrial Waste
- Fluorescent light tubes or CFL's *
- Radioactive Waste, Smoke Detectors
- Infectious & Biological Wastes
- Pressurized Cylinders
- Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives
- Fire Extinguishers
- Propane Tanks **
- Alkaline Batteries ***
- Computers, other Electronics, PCB's
- Asbestos
- Prescription Medicines****
- Syringes
- **NO LATEX PAINT**

* Bring to MacKay Hardware year-around (no charge).

** Bring large tanks to MacKay Hardware year-around (fee) and dispose of small, **empty** tanks in trash.

*** Throw in trash.

**** Bring to Safe and Secure, 24 hour, Drop Box located in the Police Department Lobby.



Other Upcoming Events:

10/20: Brush Chipping

11/10: Leaf Collection

12/1: Leaf Collection

www.westfordma.gov/recycling

Health Department News

Remaining Flu Clinics

The department will be administering both high dose (age 65 and over), as well as regular flu vaccines in injection and nasal spray forms, for all Westford residents age 3 years and older on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, Nov. 13, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Millennium School, Walk-in.**
- **Wednesday, Nov. 14, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Town Hall, 2nd Floor, 55 Main Street, Appointment only.**

As in the past, the Westford Health Dept. will seek reimbursement from Medicare and other insurances for those residents who have coverage. We ask that all residents bring their insurance cards to the clinics. As always, there will be no charge for any flu vaccine regardless of insurance coverage.

If needed, home flu vaccination visits will be provided to homebound Westford residents, by appointment only.

If you have questions, you may contact the Westford Health Department at 978-399-2548 or visit our website at www.westfordma.gov/boh.

Health Department Provides Talk at Senior Center

On October 2, 2012, Rae Dick, the Health Agent with the Westford Health Department, presented at the Cameron Senior Center on a variety of health topics. Information was provided on Title V Septic System, Wells. The successful event was part of the Coldwell Banker's popular series "To Stay or Not to Stay" program. Additional topics covered included: Proper Disposal of Sharps and Medication, and Emergency Preparedness Kits.

"To Stay or Not To Stay?" will continue November 6th from 2-4 PM at the Cameron. Professionals from Coldwell Banker Real Estate and others will be on hand to provide you with information you will need to make decisions and be safe in your home, no matter where you decide to live. Watch for details on the website at www.westfordma.gov/coa and in the newspaper. Refreshments will be served and there will be Door Prizes. Register by calling 978-692-5523.



Westford Senior Center

J.V. Fletcher Library News

By Popular Demand....

Based on patron feedback from our October Program, "A Technology Petting Zoo," we have just added the following program to our November Program roster.

On Thursday, November 29 please join us for **"iPadBasics."** Whether you are considering buying an iPad, or you own one and haven't yet figured out how to activate all its bells and whistles and/or you want to learn how to download free eBooks from the Library's Overdrive Service or free audio-books from the Library's OneClickdigital service... this program is for YOU.

Rita Gavelis, teacher extraordinaire, will be our iPad guide.

Registration begins at the Information Services Department in the Library on **Monday, November 5.** Drop in or call (978-399-2304) to register. FREE. Open to ages 10 and up.



www.westfordlibrary.org



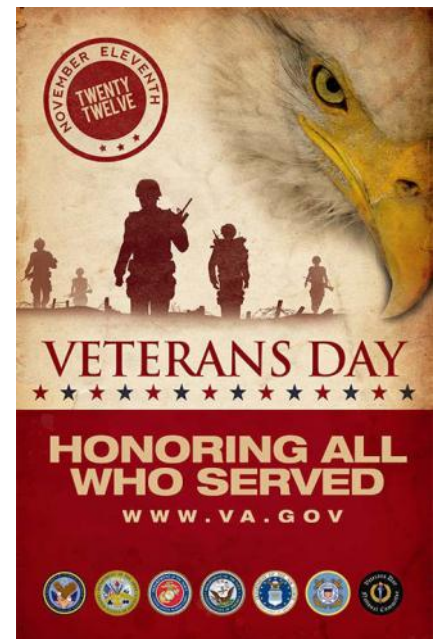
Veterans Day Ceremonies

Westford will be celebrating Veterans Day on Sunday, November 11 at 11 AM on the Town Common.

Please come and join us as we recognize those that have served and who are currently serving in the armed forces.

The event guide can be found at this link.

www.westfordma.gov/veterans



Council on Aging News

FUEL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS - Fuel assistance recertification applications for those receiving fuel assistance last year were mailed directly to you from CTI in August. Please complete and return the application ASAP. New applicants' appointments begin in November at the Senior Center for all residents by calling 978-692-5523. If you are a new applicant with a termination notice on a gas or electric bill please call CTI at 978-459-6161. They will schedule an appointment ASAP to avoid termination of utilities. If you have less than a quarter of a tank of oil, propane or kerosene call CTI at 978-459-6161 for an October appointment and have your application approved to request a delivery of fuel on November 1. They do not pay for any deliveries before November 1.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM GROSS INCOME
1	\$31,271
2	\$40,893
3	\$50,515
4	\$60,137

Upcoming Events

CAMERON HARVEST FAIR

Come and support the Friends of Cameron and start your holiday shopping early. Friday and Saturday, October 26 and October 27 from 8 AM - 2 PM, white elephant table, bake sale, jewelry, Cameron apparel, Cat's Meow, handmade and quilted items, raffles, silent auction and food (hot dogs, soda, donuts and coffee). The general public is invited. Tables are available to rent for \$15 by calling 978-692-5523. Stop by, do some shopping and browse in our Thrift shop. If you are too busy that week-end, perhaps you can donate a prize that can be raffled.

T.R.E.A.D. (Tax relief for the elderly and disabled)

applications are due at Cameron no later than October 26th. Call if you need an application 978 692-5523.

Medicare Open Enrollment period is October 15 – December 7.

A presentation on Medicare will be held at Cameron on Monday, October 29 at 1 PM. Call 978 692-5523 to register.

FALLS PREVENTION CONFERENCE Tuesday, October 30 from 10 AM - 1 PM at the Holiday Inn in Boxborough. This free program will include an interesting and entertaining keynote speaker, workshops designed to help us all lead safer, healthier lives; a number of health screenings, (vision, balance, footwear, medications, etc.), educational handouts, giveaways and a complimentary lunch. If you are interested, please contact Bonnie at 978-287-3458 or email at bgolsmith@emersonhosp.org.

Board of Health Clinics

Adult Health Maintenance Clinics (Walk-in) - November 13, and December 11 from 9:30 - 10:30. Location: Town Hall, 2nd floor.

Ham and Bean Supper

The Annual Ham and Bean Supper will be held at the Franco American Club on Saturday, November 17 at 6 PM, doors open early. Pre-register at 978-692-5523.

To see the entire COA newsletter please visit our web-site at www.westfordma.gov/coa, and click on [COA Newsletters](#).

Council on Aging News (continued)

HOLIDAY BASKET PROGRAM

Holiday baskets for residents of Westford are coordinated through the Council on Aging at the Cameron Senior Center. These baskets are all donated and truly a community effort. Approximately 100 households each holiday will request baskets of food or food and gifts for the upcoming holidays. We anticipate additional families in need to reach out to us and want to be sure that we can meet their request. If you are willing to contribute a food basket, gifts for a family, gift cards, monetary donation or conduct a food drive please contact us at jsheehan@westfordma.gov to request an application to donate be sent to you. We can also be reached Monday through Friday 8 AM – 4 PM at 978 692-5523.

Baskets are distributed for Thanksgiving and Christmas through our organization and St. Catherine's Church distributes New Years food baskets and additional holiday requests that we may not be able to handle. We are looking for individuals, families, friends, businesses and clubs to adopt a family for the 2012 holiday. Our families are local and range from a home bound individual to families of ten under one roof. The names of the families are always kept confidential.

If you are in need of a holiday basket and have not received an application please contact us with your name and mailing address at 978 692-5523 ASAP. We hope to make all of the matches in early November but it is never too late to apply.

Volunteers are welcome to assist us in lifting these items on Sunday, November 18 and or Sunday, December 16 from 11 AM – 3 PM at the George Rogers Fire Station, Town Farm Rd. rear parking lot. A great opportunity for students in need of Community Service hours.



*Photo of last years Holiday Gift Baskets
being assembled,
before being distributed.*